

CONCLUSIONS

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The most striking fact which has emerged from the second census of Bahrain is that although there has been an increase in the total population of about 20% in nine years yet this increase is confined to Manamah and Muharraq alone, the growth of the population of Manamah being twice as much as in Muharraq. Even if the number of men who are working abroad is taken into consideration the lack of increase in the rural districts discloses an unsatisfactory state of affairs in the villages which was only revealed

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by the census. During the preliminary registration, which in the case of the villages took about a fortnight, and the night of the census, the census staff recorded 43 deaths in a village population of about 31,500 (the Arab villages were not included in this total). In one small village with a population of 248 persons there were eight deaths in ten days and in every case the deaths were of very young children, yet no epidemic existed.

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There is no unemployment in Bahrain and the cost of living in the villages is no higher than it was a few years ago. There is no reason to suppose that the lack of increase in the rural population is due to economic causes.

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The people in the towns and in the villages which are near the towns make more use every year of the public health facilities which are provided by the Government. Cleanliness and sanitation have improved and the anti-malaria work which the Government has carried out has done much to reduce malaria, but few women patients come to the hospitals from distant villages, although today almost all the villages are on bus routes. From what information can be obtained, without vital statistics, it would appear that infant mortality rate in the villages is extremely high. It used to be equally high in the towns but conditions in this respect in the towns have much improved.

At the end of the year the amount in the Police Provident Fund was Rs. 2,11,507. The balance of the Police Fund was Rs. 1,563/-, the sum of Rs. 5,744/- was paid out in loans to Police and Natives, most of the payments being for building or repairing houses. 625
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Crimes and Accidents. There was a slight increase in the number of serious crimes which is thought to be partly due to the large influx of foreigners, especially Omanis, during recent years. 674
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On 25th January, 1953, some Omanis who were living in the brothel area, missed one of their party, Abdulla bin Salim. They went to his house which was found to be locked. One of them climbed over the wall and entering the house he found Abdulla with his throat cut. The victim was a bad character, a procurer in the brothel area. Police investigations produced no evidence to justify a prosecution.

On 13th December, 1952, a youth named Abdul Husain bin Isa, who worked as a car cleaner and who habitually slept in a garage in Manama, was found by the owner of the garage, when he came to take out his car, lying dead on his bed with a wound in his back and signs of having been throttled. The garage doors were locked, one key was in the possession of the youth and the owner of the garage had another key. The garage, however, could have been entered by an inner door. There appeared to be no motive for the murder as the victim was not of the type to be associated with an affair of sex. The Police arrested the owner of the garage and his brother and laid a charge of murder against them in the Bahrain Court. The family of the murdered man were insistent that he had been murdered by the owners of the garage. The case was heard and the accused were acquitted owing to lack of evidence. 674
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On 17th May, 1953, one Abdul Husain bin Haji Sulman bin Khalaf, a local Bahraini, was walking in a lane near his house, at night. His brother, Ibrahim, came on him from behind and stabbed him twice with a knife. He was seriously injured but after hospital treatment he recovered. The reason for the attack was a family quarrel. The attacker was sentenced to four years imprisonment with hard labour.

On 7th November, 1952, two men were cleaning their hands with petrol at one of the garages in Manama. Another man lit a match which ignited the petrol causing serious burns to both of the men, one of whom subsequently died in hospital.

An Omani came from Dubai and reported to the Police that two years before his son, aged 18, who was working in a garage in Bahrain, died from burns. It was established that the boy had died in hospital as a result of burns but no evidence was forthcoming about the cause of the burns.

A man who was arrested for pickpocketing attempted to commit suicide by cutting his throat with a razor blade, in the Police Station.

There were two deaths from electrocution. A boy of 12 years caught hold of an electric wire in a shop and was killed, and a man climbed an electric standard, in order to catch birds, touched a live wire and was killed immediately. [165]

Five cases of accidental drowning occurred, two men were lost when their small fishing craft capsized, an old man, reputed to be nearly 100 years old, fell into the sea from a fishing boat during stormy weather off Barba and two children were drowned on the shore west of Manama town. In none of these cases was there any suggestion of foul play.

On 23rd August, 1953, some boys were out shooting on the shore near Jasrah. A shot from the gun of Mohamed Ahmed Al Jhatam entered the neck of one Ibrahim bin Mohamed Al Khalifah and killed him. The owner of the gun immediately left Bahrain. His father was ordered to pay Rs. 5000 to the relatives of the victim and to remove himself from Jasrah and an order was passed against the son forbidding him to return to Bahrain for an indefinite period. The families were related and were branches of the Ruling Family.

There were 280 cases of theft reported to the Police against 303 cases in 1371. Of these cases 55 were presented in Court, 133 cases were undetected and 92 cases were not proceeded with for lack of evidence. Most of the cases were pickpocketing and thefts of clothes.

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ACCIDENTS RETURN 1972

Total Number of Accidents .. 142

ACCIDENTS Involving Death or Injury to Persons			ACCIDENTS Involving Damage to Vehicles		ACCIDENTS Involving Damage to Property		ACCIDENTS Involving Injury to Animals	
55			95		8		3	
Number of Persons Injured.			Number of Vehicles Damaged		Property Damaged.		Number of Animals Injured.	
79			143		8		3	
Slightly.	Seriously.	Fatally.	Slightly.	Seriously.	Slightly.	Seriously.	Killed.	Injured.
40	29	10	107	36	5	3	1	2

COURT PROCEEDINGS AS RESULT OF ACCIDENTS 33

BAHRAIN COURT

Number Cases.	Number of Persons Accused.	Convictions.	Acquittals.
45	45	40	5

AGENCY COURT

Number Cases.	Number of Persons Accused.	Convictions.	Acquittals.
10	10	10	NIL

The two animals shown above as "Injured" are : Two Donkeys.

ROAD ACCIDENTS DURING EACH MONTH—1953

(Month)			No. of Accidents.	Injured.	Fatal.
Muharram	..	..	11	8	—
Safar	..	..	11	5	2
R/Awal	..	..	10	5	—
R/Thani	..	..	9	2	1
J/Awal	..	..	10	9	—
J/Thani	..	..	11	6	—
Rajab	..	..	15	4	1
Shaban	..	..	12	3	—
Ramadan	..	..	12	4	1
Shawal	..	..	11	2	2
Dr/Qadah	..	..	17	4	2
D/Haj	..	..	10	7	1

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PEDESTRIANS INJURED OR KILLED

No.	Sex.	Age.	Injured.	Fatal.
1	Male	45	1	—
1	"	50	1	—
1	"	25	—	1
1	"	6	1	—
1	"	40	1	—
1	"	30	1	—
1	"	15	—	1
1	"	10	1	—
1	"	35	1	—
1	"	10	1	—
1	"	11	1	—
1	"	50	1	—
1	"	6	1	—
1	"	45	—	1
1	"	12	1	—
1	"	4	1	—
1	"	30	1	—
1	"	30	1	—
1	"	30	1	—
1	"	40	1	—
1	"	8	—	1
1	"	60	1	—
1	"	15	1	—
1	"	47	1	—
1	"	50	—	1
1	"	30	1	—
1	"	53	1	—
1	"	48	1	—
1	"	50	—	1
1	"	35	1	—
1	"	50	1	—
1	"	12	1	—
1	"	35	1	—
1	"	50	1	—
1	"	45	—	1
1	"	8	1	—
1	Female	10	1	—
1	"	3	—	1
1	"	6	1	—
—			31	6

162 approximately 26,000 residents, and Hedd, a
632 pearl fishing center, around 10,000. The
population exceeded that of the 1941 census
by almost 20,000: the increase was confined
mainly to the towns of Manama and Mu-
[167] harraq, and was attributed in large part to
immigration.

871 Since the organization of the first govern-
ment school in 1919, education has made
considerable progress, but expansion is
hampered by a shortage of trained teach-
658 ing personnel. In 1950, the Bahrain govern-
562 ment supported 13 primary schools for boys
872 — 8 in the towns and 5 in the villages. Edu-
cational facilities were made available to
girls in 1928, and at present 6 primary
schools are in operation. Of the 5,770 pupils
registered in government schools in 1950-51,

871 slightly over 1,700 were girls. A few private
658 schools are established in Manama, while
Koranic schools are found in most towns
and villages. The government also main-
tains a secondary school, a technical school
and a school hostel for boys, and provides
scholarships for qualified students for ad-
vanced study at the American University
212 of Beirut and in Great Britain. In the recent
census, the literacy rate in the indigenous
population was estimated at 10 per cent.

VITAL STATISTICS

654 The registration of births and deaths is
361 not compulsory in Bahrain, and no data for
165 the calculation of vital statistics are obtain-
163 able. Local medical authorities agree that
the mortality rates in infancy and early
childhood are uniformly high. Observations
made by the census enumerators in 1950
suggest that the infant mortality is particu-
larly serious in the rural villages, in contrast
with the towns, where living conditions have
improved within recent years. The mater-
nal mortality rates are correspondingly
high.

161 The size of the population remained
165 practically stationary in the rural districts
163 in the 9-year interval between the first and
the second census surveys. The rate of in-
crease in areas outside the towns of Ma-

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nama, Muharrag and Heidl and the 3 vil-
lages of East and West Rafaa and Sakhir
was less than 1 per cent.

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SOCIAL ECONOMY

Prior to the opening of the Bahrain oil
fields, the economy of the islands was based
upon pearl fishing and the transshipment of
goods between Iran, India and other coun-
tries and the neighboring Arabian ports. The
waters of the Persian Gulf contain famous
pearl fishing banks, and, since ancient times,
Bahrain has been recognized as the tradi-
tional center of the industry. It constituted
the principal source of wealth for centuries,
but it reached a low level in the 1920s, due
in part to the competition of Japanese cul-
tured pearls in the world markets. Early
records are nonexistent, but the former
Bahrain pearl fleets probably consisted of
600 to 1,000 vessels. The number has de-
clined progressively; only 83 departed for
the banks in 1950. In that year, about 2,000
Bahrainis were engaged in pearl fishing dur-
ing the season from mid-April to October,
undoubtedly a fraction of the total em-
ployed when the demand for pearls was at
its height.

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In previous decades, dhow building also
was one of the major industries of Bahrain,
but its decline has paralleled that of the
pearl fisheries. Nine boats were constructed
in 1949, as against 100 reported in 1928-29.

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Today, oil is the foundation of Bahrain's
prosperity. The royalties derived from the
industry not only have bolstered the declin-
ing resources of the government, but have
made possible the expansion of public works
and social services. Operations are con-
ducted by the Bahrain Petroleum Company,
Ltd., which holds long-term concessions
from the Sheikh of Bahrain for the develop-
ment of the petroleum resources of the
islands. Oil was discovered in the Jabal al
Dukhan region, near the center of Bahrain
Island, in 1932, and production started in
1934. The proven reserves of this field are
estimated in the neighborhood of 200 mil-
lion barrels. The company also operates a

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was also believed to be high in many districts. The fatality rates among the hospitalized cases averaged 6 to 22 per cent. The disease subsided in the summer of 1950, and no cases were observed in 1951.

Vaccination against smallpox is not compulsory, but the health authorities endeavor to promote it in the school population. In 1948-49, a house-to-house campaign was carried on in the infected sections of Manama, and vaccination centers were established in the outlying districts. Vaccination is required of travelers to Bahrain, and persons who arrive without valid certificates of immunization are vaccinated by the medical officers upon landing.

Other Infections. Pneumonia is prevalent; a large proportion of the cases are probably bronchopneumonias. Measles, mumps and whooping cough are endemic, and often epidemic. Chickenpox and poliomyelitis are also endemic, but the reported cases are usually few in number. Meningococcus meningitis is sporadic, and occasional small outbreaks are recorded.

DISEASES SPREAD OR CONTRACTED CHIEFLY THROUGH CONTACT

Veneral Diseases. Venereal diseases constitute a major problem, due to the transitory nature of a large section of the population. Local medical authorities believe that the syphilitic infection rate approximates 60 to 70 per cent. Numerous mild nonvenereal infections are observed among children, although the familiar manifestations of congenital syphilis are relatively rare. Gonorrhea is widespread, but chancroid and lymphogranuloma venereum are of minor significance. Cases of venereal disease are treated at the isolation hospital and the various dispensaries.

Diseases of the Eyes. Eye infections are prominent throughout this region. Ignorance of the basic principles of hygiene and the prevalence of flies, as well as the irritating effects of sand and wind during the *shamal* seasons, are underlying factors in the spread of trachoma, conjunctivitis and